Safe drinking water in Fluorosis-affected areas of Andhra Pradesh

1871. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government had submitted a project report for providing safe drinking water to fluorosis-affected Kanigiri and Kondapi areas in Prakasam district under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission;

(b) if so, whether the proposal is still pending with the Ministry;

(c) whether the former Prime Minister had also agreed to direct the Ministry to clear the same;

(d) whether Government have cleared the proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The letter from the State Government was forwarded by the Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment asking for the Action Taken and status of the project;

(d) and (e) After technical scrutiny and discussion of the project, the State Government was requested to send the modified project which is still awaited.

Committee to examine the working of SEBS

1872. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to examine the working of State Electricity Boards;

(b) whether the committee has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The National Development Council (NDC) constituted a Committee on Power in June, 1993 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar, the then Chief Minister, Maharashtra to examine, inter alia, measures to make the State Electricity Boards economically viable by recasting tariff, improving efficiency and considering de-linking of distribution from generation.

(b) and (c) The report of the National Development Council (NDC) Committee on Power has been submitted and it is yet to be discussed in the National Development Council.

Funds for Development of Agricultural Sector

1873. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government to allocate more funds for development of agricultural sector in the country, particularly in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) The share of Agriculture Sector in the total investment has increased from 11.23% in the Seventh Plan to 18.65% during the Eighth Plan. For the development of Agricultural and allied Sectors in the country and particularly in Punjab